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SENSITIVE
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DEPARTMENT FOR OES (SENSENEY AND LAWRENCE), S/P (BEHRMAN),
S/SRMC (CHANDLER), AND R (NOOR-ALI); ALSO FOR NEA/MAG
NSC STAFF FOR SENIOR DIRECTOR RAMAMURTHY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [TSPL](#) [TS](#)
SUBJECT: TUNISIA: AMBASSADOR PUSHES CARTHAGE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

REF: A. TUNIS 35
 [1](#)B. TUNIS 8
 [1](#)C. 09 TUNIS 938
 [1](#)D. 09 TUNIS 928
 [1](#)E. 09 TUNIS 869
 [1](#)F. 09 TUNIS 757

Sensitive but unclassified; please protect accordingly.

(SBU) In the course of the Ambassador's January 20 courtesy call, Presidential Chief of Staff Ahmed Ouederni cited science and technology (S&T) as an area in which the United States and Tunisia could deepen bilateral cooperation. In reply, the Ambassador followed up on previous ministerial meetings (refs B-E) by noting that the 2004 U.S.-Tunisia S&T Agreement had yet to be ratified by the Government of Tunisia. The Ambassador emphasized the importance of S&T cooperation as a component of the "new beginning" laid out in the President's Cairo speech and the Secretary's speech at the Forum for the Future in Marrakech. Ouederni was apparently knowledgeable about the S&T Agreement but did not offer any reply. On a related note, Ambassador raised the upcoming visit of Science Envoy Dr. Elias Zerhouni; Ouederni was familiar with Dr. Zerhouni and welcomed the visit.
GRAY